

July 2013



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As spring planting is completed, producers should certify their 2013 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. The deadline to certify your acres is July 15th. Please call for an appointment if you have not already done so, and remember to have your plant dates ready.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) Sign-Up Continues

The sign-up period for DCP is still open. To be eligible for the 2013 program all producers that received greater than a zero share of a DCP contract must sign the contract no later than Aug 2, 2013. Any contracts missing signatures after the Aug 2, 2013 deadline will be considered withdrawn and no benefits will be issued for that farm. Contact the county office to verify that all of the contract signatures have been obtained or to schedule an appointment to sign your farm up.

2012 ACRE Production Reporting Requirement

If your farm participated in the 2012 ACRE program you are reminded that as a condition of eligibility for payment, the owner or operator with a share of the crop must submit production reports. Production reports are needed for all 2012 ACRE program commodities for which acreage reports greater than zero were submitted. The deadline for submitting production reports is July 15, 2013.

Failure to timely complete production reports (FSA-658) will result in refunding all Direct and ACRE program payments issued for the farm's 2012 ACRE Program participation.

FSA Seeks Nominees for County Committees

The Farm Service Agency is looking for candidates for the upcoming grower-elected county committee election. FSA is accepting nominations through August 1, 2013.

FSA county committees make decisions which impact program payments. They bring local knowledge of farming practices, prices and conditions to program implementation. Also, producers can appeal most agency determinations to the local county committee.

FSA encourages all interested agricultural producers, including women and minority growers, to seek nomination. Eligible candidates must participate or cooperate in any Farm Service Agency program and be of legal voting age. Even if you are not currently participating in FSA programs, you may be considered eligible under the cooperation criteria if you have farm records on file with FSA.

The County Committees draws their members from local administrative areas. Nominated by local farmers and ranchers, candidates must live in the local administrative area they will represent and must be eligible to vote in the county election. Members serve on staggered three-year terms so that one-third of the seats are up for re-election each year.

This year's election takes place in LAA 1 in Columbia County and LAA 3 in Walla Walla County. A map of FSA county committee election areas can be found on the agency's website <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>.

Elected county committee members receive an hourly wage for their attendance and representation at county committee meetings. Elections will take place in the fall and newly elected committee members begin their terms January 1, 2014.

Additional information and nomination forms may be requested from our office. Nomination forms may also be obtained online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>.

Continuous CRP Sign-up Highly Erodible Land Initiative (HELI)

Producers who would like to put their steepest slopes into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) while farming their better ground can do so without having to compete in the General CRP Signup. FSA is accepting enrollment of land with an Erosion Index of 20 or greater into the Continuous CRP. By not having to compete, farmers can expect to receive the full annual county rental rate on these 10-year contracts. Only new ground is eligible for this initiative. Washington State was allocated a reduced number of acres for this Initiative. Currently there are only 7,000 acres remaining, offers will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. If you are interested in this program, please contact the county office soon.

For those producers that have expiring Continuous CRP contracts and would like to re-enroll those contracts. Please contact the county office to make an appointment. For more information on any of the CRP programs visit the FSA CRP website: [Conservation Reserve Program](#)

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Producers who obtain Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage are required to report annually all production for NAP covered crops. This maintains your compliance with NAP program requirements. Production information can be provided to the county office either by submitting actual production evidence, or

certified production supplied verbally. Regardless of how you choose to provide your production information, it must include a signed CCC-452 form (Actual Production History Form).

The deadline to submit a signed CCC-452 is close of business Monday July 15, 2013. Failure to timely report production may negatively affect future year approved yield calculations for your NAP covered crops.

NAP APPLICATION CLOSING DATES FOR THE 2014 CROP YEAR

- 8/31/2013 – Canola; carrots (for seed, fresh or processing); Christmas trees; floriculture; mushrooms; onions (for seed, fresh or processing); rapeseed; and any other fall planted crops not mentioned in other closing dates.
- 9/30/2013 – Mint; perennial grazing, forage, mixed forage, and forage seed crops.
- 11/20/2013 - Perennial crops not listed in the 9/30 category; asparagus; berries; grapes; honey; hops; tree fruits and nuts.
- 3/15/2014 – Beets (for seed or fresh); buckwheat; camelina; mustard; radish (for seed or fresh); small grain forages (wheat, barley, oats, peas); and any other spring planted crops not mentioned in other closing dates.

NAP coverage should be purchased at least 30 days before the crop is planted, but no later than the application closing date.

NAP coverage cannot be offered on any crop for which Federal Crop Insurance is available in the county.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).